

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 L-03 FRB-03 OMB-01 ITC-01
SP-02 USIA-06 AGRE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00
INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-07
TRSE-00 CEA-01 SS-15 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12
NEA-10 /135 W

-----129418 232214Z /75

R 231144Z FEB 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6314
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: UNCTAD, EGEN
SUBJECT: UNCTAD: GROUP B MEETING ON REVERSE FLOW OF
TECHNOLOGY (BRAIN DRAIN)

1. AT GROUP B MEETING FEB 18, CHAIRED BY ALLEN (US),
GROUP DECIDED THE BEST APPROACH TO FORTHCOMING UNCTAD
EXPERTS GROUP ON REVERSE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY WAS TO
OBJECT INITIALLY TO APPROVAL OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA,
ATTEMPTING TO SUBSTITUTE INSTEAD TWO ITEMS OF ITS OWN
DESIGN FOR PROPOSED ITEMS 3 AND 4 IN DOCUMENT
TD/B/C.6/AC.4/1. ITEM THREE SHOULD BE ASSESSMENT OF
THE MAGNITUDE, COMPOSITION, CAUSES AND EFFECTS OF THE
OUTFLOW OF TRAINED PERSONNEL AND ITEM FOUR SHOULD BE
RECOMMENDATIONS, IF ANY, THAT THE EXPERTS MIGHT MAKE
AS A RESULT OF SUCH AN ASSESSMENT. THE GROUP FELT THAT
THE SECRETARIAT'S APPROACH WAS A CLASSIC CASE OF PUTTING
THE CART BEFORE THE HORSE, I.E., STARTING WITH ONLY
ONE HIGHLY COLORFUL AND UNACCEPTABLE POLICY PROPOSAL
BEFORE THE ASSESSMENT HAD BEEN MADE.

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2. THE BASIS UPON WHICH THE ASSESSMENT WOULD HAVE TO
BE MADE IS THE SCANTY DOCUMENTATION PRESENTED BY THE
SECRETARIAT, I.E., TD/B/C.6/7 AND THE FOUR CASE STUDIES
ON SRI LANKA (TD/B/AC.4/4), THE PHILIPPINES (/5),
PAKISTAN (/3), AND INDIA (/6). THE GROUP WOULD NOTE
THAT THE SECRETARIAT HAD NOT CARRIED OUT THE TASK
ASSIGNED IT IN PREPARATION OF FURTHER NECESSARY STUDIES

ON WHICH TO BASE SUCH AN ASSESSMENT AND WOULD CALL UPON OTHER DOCUMENTATION AVAILABLE FROM THE UN SYSTEM TO DEMONSTRATE THE INADEQUACY OF THE UNCTAD SECRETARIAT'S RESPONSE TO COMMITTEE ON TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY RESOLUTION 2(1), REINFORCED BY NAIROBI RESOLUTION 87(IV), PARA 18. THE GROUP INTERPRETED THE LATTER RESOLUTION AS, UNFORTUNATELY, REQUIRING UNCTAD TO COME UP WITH SOME POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS, A VIEWPOINT THE MISSION OFFICER DOES NOT SHARE SINCE NO ACTION BY ANY INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION WAS CALLED FOR IN PARA 18.

3. SINCE DOCUMENT C.6/7 WILL BE ONE OF THE PRIMARY DOCUMENTS UPON WHICH THE EXPERTS GROUP DISCUSSION MAY BE BASED, COMMENTS ON SOME OF THE ISSUES POSED IN THAT DOCUMENT WILL BE NEEDED. THE GROUP FELT THAT ONE AREA THAT SHOULD BE STRONGLY CHALLENGED IS THE ASSERTION THAT A NEW POLICY FRAMEWORK IS NEEDED (CHAPTER III) AND IS TO DRAW TOGETHER MATERIAL TO ATTACK THESE PROPOSALS. ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS THE DEPARTMENT CAN PROVIDE ON THIS SECTION WOULD BE APPRECIATED. IN THIS CONNECTION A UNITAR STUDY MADE IN 1971 WAS ALLUDED TO WHICH REPORTEDLY CONCLUDED THAT THE POSITIVE ASPECTS OF TRAINED PERSONNEL OUTFLOW COMPENSATED FOR THE NEGATIVE ASPECTS. FURTHER STUDIES HAVE APPARENTLY BEEN MADE BY ILO AND WHO.

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4. THE GROUP DECIDED TO RECONVENE THE MORNING OF FEBRUARY 27 JUST PRIOR TO THE OPENING OF THE MEETING TO REVIEW SUBSTANTIVE PREPARATIONS FOR THE MEETING. FEW, IF ANY, DELEGATES ARE EXPECTED FROM CAPITALS. VANDEN HEUVEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING AGENDA, BRAIN DRAIN
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978GENEVA02829
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780084-0925
Format: TEL
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780224/aaaaatol.tel
Line Count: 99
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ae679ed1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3509545
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNCTAD: GROUP B MEETING ON REVERSE FLOW OF TECHNOLOGY (BRAIN DRAIN)
TAGS: EGEN, TECH, UNCTAD
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ae679ed1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014